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The Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.

Annual Report

ON

The Health of Weston-super-Mare,

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, etc.,

FOR THE YEAR

1925

BY

JOHN WALLACE, O.B.E., M.B., C.M.; B.Sc. (Publ. Health),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, and

Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital.

To which is appended the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

and the

Meteorological Report.



Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year

1925.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1925.

The last four Annual Reports have been what are known as " Ordinary Reports," but this year the Annual Report is a " Survey Report," in which the Minister of Health has intimated that I must " deal comprehensively " with—

- (a) progress in the area during the last five years in public health ;
- (b) the extent and character of changes in the public health services in the area ;
- (c) any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services contemplated by the Local Authority or considered desirable by the Medical Officer of Health ;

and as a minimum information in regard to matters specified in the Appendix to Circular 648 has to be supplied.

I have endeavoured to carry out these instructions.

Along with my Report is printed the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Meteorological Report for 1925.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN WALLACE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.

Health Committee.

COUNCILLOR J. H. HILLMAN (Chairman).

„ R. J. DART.
„ H. J. FEAR.
„ F. J. HURST.
„ B. L. E. JONES (MRS.)
„ C. E. MASTERS.
„ H. MATTHEWMAN.
„ J. SALISBURY.
„ E. M. SMITH.
„ W. WILCOX.
„ F. YOUNG.
„ E. S. STRADLING (ex-officio).

TOWN CLERK — MR. SYDNEY C. SMITH.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR — MR. H. A. BROWN.

Medical Officer's Department.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

DR. WALLACE.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

MR. H. W. BLADON.

ASSISTANT SANITARY INSPECTOR :

MR. CHAS. URCH.

HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS DALLAWAY.

ASSISTANT HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS ROSSITER.

METEOROLOGIST :

MR. W. H. ALLEN.

MATRON ISOLATION HOSPITAL :

MISS A. MANEY.

Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.

Statistical Memoranda, 1925.

SITUATION.

Latitude, $51^{\circ} 20' 45''$ N.—Longitude, $2^{\circ} 58' 30''$ W.

AREA.

4,430 acres (including 2,007 acres of Foreshore).

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Limestone Rock and Sand chiefly.

ELEVATION OF AREA BUILT ON.

26 feet to 300 feet.

SLOPE.

Southerly.

POPULATION (Civilian).

Actual Census, June, 1921, 31,653. Estimate 1925, 32,302.

Estimated maximum during season, 90,000.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921), 5,105.*

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921), 6055.*

RATEABLE VALUE, £212,220 (Council and Government Houses included).

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £866 19s. 0d.

RAINFALL.

34·69 inches in 1925—average last 10 years, 33·86 inches.

RAINY DAYS. 161 in 1925—average last 10 years, 173·4

BRIGHT SUNSHINE. 1,570·6 hours in 1925—average last 10 years, 1,470·4 hours.

WATER SUPPLY.

Constant service—New 'Town Supply from Banwell spring.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

By water carriage—Outfall 2 miles South of 'Town Hall into Bristol Channel.

BIRTH RATE. 9·65 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

41·66 per 1,000 births—Average last 10 years—54·88.

DEATH RATE. 9·53 per 1,000.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE (including Influenza). 15 deaths (or 0·46 per 1,000).

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE. 23 deaths (or 0·71 per 1,000).

*From Census Returns.

The Urban District Council has now carried out considerable additions to the Town Hall, providing the much needed accommodation for the Health Department, and I expect the Staff very soon to be in occupation of the new offices.

The work on Ashcombe House which I stated in my last Report was expected to be in progress before last Autumn has not yet been decided on.

The Surveyor and I recently laid before the Council Reports on the accommodation for Infectious Diseases in the Urban District and a meeting of the Council to consider what shall be done is to be held at an early date.

Meanwhile the need for modernised accommodation for a much larger number of different diseases than can be treated in the present Hospital, as well as for the staff, is clamant and must involve a large expenditure at the earliest possible date.

Considerable progress has been made with the Town Planning Scheme, but it is common knowledge that certain difficulties with the Axbridge Rural District Council have had to be got over in so far as their interests in the areas immediately adjoining the Urban District are affected.

No progress has been made as to the Extension of the Boundaries of the Urban District.

In my opinion, from the point of view of Public Health both these matters are of vital interest and importance to Weston-super-Mare.

The parishes of Worle, Uphill, Bleadon, Kewstoke, and Hutton are actually contiguous to Weston, while Locking and Wick St. Lawrence adjoin them, and at the last Census they had a population totalling over 4,000 (4,088). They supply Weston with market garden and dairy produce ; many of the inhabitants come in daily to work. and much of their shopping is done in Weston. Large numbers of summer visitors find apartments in the villages and spend much of their time in Weston. Uphill, Worle, and Kewstoke draw their water supply, and the first two their gas supply from Weston. The village of Uphill is drained into the Weston sewers, but the only means of drainage for the other villages are the open ditches surrounding them, obviously a source of danger to Weston-super-Mare. Since the advent of the very

frequent 'bus services, it is no exaggeration to say these villages, which are within a radius of about two miles from the Town Hall, are really part of Weston-super-Mare, and yet we have no control over or responsibility for their sanitary conditions, which obviously affect us very closely indeed.

Recently the estate of Woodspring was in the market, first being offered to the Weston-super-Mare Urban District Council, who did not see their way to purchase. Since then various rumours that the Great Western Railway Company would assist in its development, that it had been sold to a building Syndicate, etc., etc., have been in circulation. Whatever the truth of the rumours may be, certain facts are before us:—The estate of 650 acres is in the parish of Kewstoke and lies on the N.E. of the Weston-super-Mare boundaries; it has a considerable frontage to Sand Bay, and a large part of it is flat agricultural land lying between Worlebury Hill and Woodspring Hill.

Without committing myself to a statement that the estate is “ripe” for development, it seems clear that no Syndicate is going to invest capital in its purchase unless they have building in view.

Building, not all of a desirable type, has already started on the sea front to the N.W. of Kewstoke Village, and building sites are offered on the North side of Worlebury Hill, along which there is a good and much-frequented road, on which a motor 'bus plies between Weston and Kewstoke; it only wants railway and road facilities, easily provided, to promote speculative building on the estate I have described. That begun, the question of the sewage disposal becomes a burning one for Weston-super-Mare, and one over which it must have control.

If my case has been made out that for reasons of Public Health Weston-super-Mare should acquire control over the parishes I have named, then the demand for the necessary Extension of Boundaries should be made and pushed to a successful conclusion without delay, and in view of that issue, the whole of the area should be included in our Town Planning Scheme.

A.—Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Weston-super-Mare lies on the shores of Weston Bay, but the Urban District, which includes the contiguous Village of Milton, forms an irregular square extending about 2 miles from West to East and about 2 miles from North to South.

The total area of the district is 4,430 acres, which include—

Land	...	...	...	...	2,413 acres
Inland water	...	...	...	...	5 „
Foreshores	...	...	...	...	2,007 „
Tidal water	...	...	...	...	5 „
					— „
Total	...	...	...	...	4,430 acres
					==

The Population of the Urban District as ascertained by the Census of 1921 was 31,653.

Unfortunately this Census had to be taken on the 19th of June instead of the 24th April owing to the industrial situation prevailing at the earlier date, and this has led the Registrar-General to make a re-adjustment of the Censal population.

He states that “ while the latter date ” (19th June) “ avoided the recognised programme of industrial holidays, some holiday movement was, largely owing to the abnormally fine weather, already then in progress. This was reflected in the Census returns by the inclusion in the case of the more popular holiday areas of varying and sometimes substantial proportions of visitors, and a corresponding depletion, not so readily identifiable, of population in those areas from which the visitors emanated.”

In this connection attention was “ drawn particularly to the following towns in the County of Somerset, in which the proportion of visitors at the Census was unduly large, and in which the Census population is more than 3 per cent. in excess of the estimated population :—

				Per cent.	
Burnham-on-Sea U.D.	11·6	}	Excess of Census over estimated resi- dent popula- tion expressed as percentage of the former
Clevedon U.D.	...	...	7·1
Minehead U.D.	...	...	15·6
Watchet U.D.	...	...	3·7
Weston-super-Mare U.D.	...	...	20·8
Williton R.D.	...	...	3·8

“ For the County of Somerset as a whole (including the inflated areas) the excess of the Census population over the resident population has been estimated at 2·2 per cent. of the Census figure.”

The Registrar-General deducted some 6,000 persons returned as visitors to Weston-super-Mare on 19th June, 1921, added a few persons who might on the night of the Census have been enumerated elsewhere although actually Weston residents, and has assessed our resident population for—

1921	at	25,070
1922	„	25,070
1923	„	25,320
1924	„	25,750
1925	„	25,720

Correspondence with the Registrar-General elicited the following information (Letter of Assistant Registrar-General, 12th April, 1926) as to the 1925 figure :—

“ It will be observed that the latest estimate is obtained from the population of the last Census year, 1921, after allowance for the Births, Deaths, and Migration (as judged by the changes in the local government electorate) of the intervening period ; estimates in respect of the years 1922-24 are not directly taken into account in the calculation of the 1925 figure though the continuity of the method adopted should ensure a reasonable progression in the estimates of successive years where the natural increase and migration change little from year to year.”

I cannot accept the figures given above as even reasonably accurate estimates of the population for the various years. They are largely based on the theorem that two primary conditions must be satisfied :—

“ (a) the individual local estimates must aggregate to the more reliable estimate of the total national population.”

“ (b) the method of estimation must be capable of impartial application to all areas alike.”

(Extract from Registrar-General's letter, 12th April, 1926.)

It is difficult to understand how a method applicable to “ all areas alike ” can do justice to the rapid increase of population in a seaside resort so popular as Weston-super-Mare has become in recent years.

Besides that, I am at one with those who urge that, “ for some of the statutory and other purposes upon which the Census population has a bearing, a Census taken in March or April does not adequately reflect the mean population of a town which is inhabited for several months in each year by an influx of visitors out of all proportion to its winter strength.” (Census Returns, 1921.)

The Census returns show that in 1921 there were in Weston-super-Mare 1,036 lodging-house and boarding-house keepers (not including hotel keepers)—as the 6,000 persons returned as visitors on June 19th were deducted from the Census population of 31,653, this pre-supposes that their rooms would have been empty on April 24th had the Census been then taken, which reduces the method of calculation to an obvious absurdity.

Finally, it has been the rule for many decades to make all yearly estimates of population as at the middle of the year (30th June)—are we ever likely to get an estimate for that date more accurate than the actual Census figures taken on June the 19th?

I have stated above that there were ascertained by the Census of 1921 to be 1,036 lodging-house and boarding-house keepers in the town, but this number in no way represents the true number of persons who let apartments, as in the season, say for July and August, probably three times that number of householders take in visitors as a means of supplementing their income.

As the figures of the Census are not generally available, it will be of interest to many if I set out the numbers of the population returned as employed in the chief occupations of this district.

Census No.	M.	F.	Total.
1. Fishermen	29	—	29
2. Agricultural occupations ...	297	24	321
3. Mining and Quarrying Occupa- tions	124	—	124
7. Metal Workers	488	10	498
14. Makers of Foods, Drinks, and Tobacco	222	55	277
15. Workers in Wood and Furni- ture	272	12	284
16 ² . Printers, Bookbinders, and Photographers	153	42	195
17. Builders, Bricklayers, Stone and Slate Workers, Contractors	362	3	365
18. Painters and Decorators ...	212	1	213
21. Persons employed in Gas, Water, and Electricity Undertakings	72	—	72
22. Persons employed in Transport and Communication ...	943	59	1,002
23. Commercial, Finance, and Insur- ance Occupations (excluding Clerks)	1,621	787	2,408
24. Persons employed in Public Administration and Defence (excluding Professional Men and Typists)	337	96	433
25. Professional Occupations (ex- cluding Clerical Staff) ...	443	580	1,023
26. Persons employed in Entertain- ments and Sport	164	73	237
27. Persons engaged in Personal Service	370	3,573	3,943
Lodging and Boarding House Keepers	(51)	(985)	(1,036)
Domestic Servants (indoor) ...	(61)	(2,057)	(2,118)
28. Clerks and Draughtsmen (not Civil Service or Local Authority Typists)	587	420	1,007
32. Retired or Not Gainfully Occupied	2,013	10,473	12,486

Poor Law Relief.

I am indebted to Mr. Burdge, Clerk to the Guardians, Axbridge Union, for the following figures :—

- 1. Total amount of relief for year 1925 £3,439 8s. 6d.
- 2. Total number of persons in receipt of out-relief during year—

Men	...	...	...	...	...	147
Women	...	...	...	...	...	271
Children	...	...	...	...	...	343
						<hr/>
Total						761
						<hr/> <hr/>

- 3. Number of inmates in the Workhouse—
 - Number in Workhouse 1st Jan, 1925 ... 60
 - Number admitted during 1925 ... 97
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 - Total ... 157

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE; AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small- pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whoop- ing- cough.	Diph- theria.	Influ- enza.	Vio- lence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncer- tified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000-50,000)	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1	
London ...	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0	

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		M.		F.		Total	
Births	{ Legitimate	...	154	...	144	...	298
	{ Illegitimate	...	9	...	5	...	14
Number of still-births		...	...	...	...	...	18
Birth Rate (Registrar-General)		...	...	...	...	...	12·13
Corrected (estimated population mid- 1925, 32,302)		...	...	...	...	...	9·65
Deaths	...	...	114	...	194	...	308
Death Rate (Registrar-General)		...	...	...	...	...	11·11
Corrected (estimated population mid- 1925, 32,302)		...	...	...	...	...	9·53
Number of women dying in, or in		{ from sepsis					Nil
consequence of childbirth		{ from other causes					Nil
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—							
Legitimate, 38·58 ; Illegitimate, 71·4 ; total, 41·66.							
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		...	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		...	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		...	...	...	...	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WESTON-SUPER-MARE URBAN
DISTRICT.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FIGURES.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					1925.	
					Males.	Females.
Civilians only—						
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	114	194
1	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	—
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	—	—
3	Measles	...	...	...	—	2
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	—	2
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
7	Influenza	...	...	...	2	8
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	1
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	—	—
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	9	14
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	1	—
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	14	25
13	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	—	1
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	9	27
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	21	26
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	4	3
18	Bronchitis...	...	...	...	7	18
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	8	6
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	5
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	—	1
22	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	1
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	—	1
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	5	7
26	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	2
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	—	—
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	3	3
29	Suicide	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	3	2
31	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	27	36
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	—
Special Causes (included above)—						
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year						
					Total	6
					Illegitimate	7
						1
TOTAL BIRTHS					163	149
Legitimate					154	144
Illegitimate					9	5
POPULATION					25,720	

BIRTH STATISTICS, 1925.

Notifications (including still births), total	...	...	332
Transfers	...	...	23
Cases visited, including transfers...	...	...	281
Cases not visited	...	...	74
Notifications by doctors	...	...	130
Notifications by midwives	...	...	202
Still births	...	...	18
Live born	...	...	314
Female births	...	...	148
Male births	...	...	166

BIRTHS NOTIFIED.

	1925.	1924.	1923.	1922.	1921.	1920.
January	24 ...	32 ...	31 ...	34 ...	37 ...	36
February	23 ...	28 ...	37 ...	27 ...	35 ...	36
March	27 ...	32 ...	30 ...	36 ...	39 ...	31
April	37 ...	32 ...	25 ...	26 ...	32 ...	34
May	37 ...	28 ...	25 ...	32 ...	45 ...	47
June	31 ...	22 ...	27 ...	28 ...	33 ...	41
July	24 ...	36 ...	33 ...	35 ...	36 ...	45
August	31 ...	41 ...	26 ...	34 ...	22 ...	25
September	26 ...	25 ...	23 ...	21 ...	26 ...	40
October	22 ...	34 ...	23 ...	28 ...	29 ...	20
November	27 ...	30 ...	25 ...	17 ...	24 ...	31
December	23 ...	20 ...	28 ...	27 ...	28 ...	25
Totals	332 ...	360 ...	333 ...	345 ...	386 ...	411

BIRTH STATISTICS, 1925.

Month.	Total.	Live Births.		Still born.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
January	... 24	... 14	... 10	... 0	... 0
February	... 23	... 13	... 9	... 0	... 1
March ...	... 27	... 13	... 11	... 1	... 2
April ...	... 37	... 16	... 19	... 0	... 2
May ...	... 37	... 20	... 16	... 1	... 0
June ...	... 31	... 20	... 11	... 0	... 0
July ...	... 24	... 9	... 15	... 0	... 0
August	... 31	... 12	... 13	... 3	... 3
September	... 26	... 9	... 16	... 0	... 1
October	... 22	... 13	... 9	... 0	... 0
November	... 27	... 13	... 11	... 1	... 2
December	... 23	... 14	... 8	... 1	... 0
Total	332	166	148	7	11

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	24	23	0
Scarlet Fever	20	15	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	3	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	2*
Pneumonia (all forms)	20	0	14
Chicken-pox	49	0	0
Erysipelas	6	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	3	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Tuberculosis :—			
(a) Pulmonary { M 20		0	9*
F 16		0	14*
Total	36	0	—
(b) Non- { M 3		0	1*
pulmonary { F 5		0	0
Total	8	0	—
			1

*Registrar General's figures. No death from puerperal sepsis in Weston-super-Mare.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.			Vision im- paired.	Vision un-im- paired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	Notified	Treated.					
		At home.	In hospital				
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The number of non-notified tuberculosis deaths was very small and in all cases a good explanation was forthcoming, and no evidence of wilful neglect or refusal to notify has come to my knowledge.

Visitors suffering from tuberculosis experience difficulty in finding accommodation if they make their condition known as lodging-house keepers object to the disinfection which follows. For obvious reasons, notified cases frequently (if visitors) leave no address when changing their places of residence.

Disinfection of rooms and bedding is carried out in all known cases of open pulmonary tuberculosis, but it is often hard work convincing the householder of the necessity for it.

There is no occupation in the Urban District causing either excessive incidence of or mortality from tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis Care Committee.

A Voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committee was formed in the end of 1915. The General Committee meets at the Town Hall half-yearly to receive a report of the work done and to discuss matters of policy. An Executive Committee meets at the Town Hall each month to hear reports from the Hon. Secretary (Miss Pethick) and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor (Miss Dallaway) and, with the advice of the Tuberculosis Medical Officer (Dr. Short) to decide on the action to be taken as to cases brought before them.

I am satisfied that this Committee continues to do valuable work.

Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) GENERAL.—None provided by the Local Authority. The District Nursing Association, a voluntary association,

working in conjunction with the County Council in regard to Midwifery, provides 4 Trained District Nurses for general nursing and midwifery. A considerable number of trained nurses work as private nurses or in connection with the Nursing Homes in the District.

- (b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The Local Authority provides a Hospital for cases of Infectious Disease. Present accommodation is insufficient as a rule for anything except Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, but from time to time, when circumstances permit, cases of Enteric, Erysipelas, Cerebro-spinal Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, etc., are admitted for treatment or observation. The Local Authority has empowered the Medical Officer to provide a nurse in necessitous cases where trained nursing is required.

Midwives.—These are under the County Council, but the Local Authority has authorised the Medical Officer in an urgent necessitous case to provide either a Doctor or a Midwife.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

1. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.—Provided by a Voluntary Committee in co-operation with the Local Authority, who supply the Nurse.
 - (a) Congregational Church Rooms, Waterloo Street ; Medical Officer, Dr. Wilde.
 - (b) Mission Room, Ashcombe Park Road (lent by Mr. Barstow) ; Medical Officer, Dr. Petty.
 2. DAY NURSERIES.

“ Day Nursery,” on the Sands, run by a Voluntary Committee during the “ season.”
 3. SCHOOL CLINICS
 4. TUBERCULOSIS
 5. VENEREAL DISEASES
- } County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

1. TUBERCULOSIS.—None in Urban District.
2. MATERNITY.—None in Urban District.

3. CHILDREN.—The General Hospital, maintained by voluntary subscriptions, has a Children's Ward.
4. FEVER.—Infectious Diseases Hospital provided by Local Authority, as stated above, but inadequate. Plans for a new Hospital are at present under consideration.
5. SMALL-POX.—The County Council have provided a Small-pox Hospital and undertaken the isolation and treatment of any cases occurring in the Urban District.

The Royal West of England Sanatorium, with 185 beds, takes convalescents, etc., from all parts of the Kingdom. No pulmonary tuberculosis cases admitted.

The Children's Convalescent Home, in the Walliscote Road, receives some 400 patients yearly, largely convalescents from the Children's Hospital, Bristol.

Any Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.

None in the Urban District.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases.—Provided by Local Authority.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases.—Provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who have a motor ambulance.

Acts in Force.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District, with date of adoption :—

The Weston-super-Mare Improvement and Market Act, 1842.
 The Weston-super-Mare Improvement and Market Act, 1851.
 The Weston-super-Mare Improvement Commissioners' Water Act, 1878.

The Weston-super-Mare Improvement Act, 1887.

The Weston-super-Mare Urban District Council Act, 1896.

The Weston-super-Mare Urban District Council Act, 1914.

Acts adopted or put into operation in the district :—

	Date when put into operation.
The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889	9th August, 1912
The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (except part 4)	1st April, 1891
The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (partly)	7th March, 1910
The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	13th April, 1891
The Public Libraries' Acts	28th Dec., 1886
The Burial Acts, 1852 to 1906	29th Jan., 1855

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

	Date of Approval.
Byelaws, Regulations, etc., for Market ...	12th July, 1869
Byelaws for Licensing, etc., of Pleasure Boats or Vessels and the Persons in charge of the same	12th July, 1869
Byelaws with respect to the Management of the Mortuary	9th July, 1890
Byelaws with respect to Omnibuses ...	25th July, 1890
Byelaws for the Prevention of Nuisances arising from Snow, Filth, Dust, Ashes, and Rubbish, and for the Pre- vention of keeping Animals on any Premises so as to be injurious to health	29th July, 1890
Byelaws for the Regulation of Pleasure Grounds	24th Feb., 1891
Byelaws with respect to Horses, Ponies, Mules or Asses standing for Hire ...	25th March, 1891

	Date of Approval.
Byelaws with respect to Public Bathing Stations	1st Sept., 1894
Standing Orders for the Regulation of the Proceedings and Business of the Urban District Council	13th Feb., 1895
Byelaws for the Regulation and Management of the Knightstone Baths ...	15th April, 1898
Additional Byelaws for the Regulation of the Public Pleasure Grounds ...	15th April, 1898
Byelaws for Imposing on the Occupier of any Premises Duties in connection with the Removal of House Refuse, so as to facilitate the work of collection	15th April, 1898
Byelaws as to Nuisances in connection with the Removal of Offensive or Noxious Matters	30th Sept., 1898
Byelaws with respect to the Keeping of Water Closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing	10th Nov., 1899
Additional Byelaws with respect to Omnibuses	10th Nov., 1899
Regulations for preventing Waste, Misuse, Undue Consumption or Contamination of the Water of the Urban District Council	29th April, 1901
Additional Byelaws with respect to Omnibuses	22nd Oct., 1901
Byelaws with respect to the Pleasure Ground known as "The Alexandra Parade"	29th April, 1902
Byelaws with respect to Posts, Wires, etc.	22nd Sept., 1902
Byelaws and Regulations under Section 46 of the Tramways Act, 1870 ...	8th April, 1903
Rules and Regulations with respect to the Tramways	17th April, 1903

	Date of Approval.
Byelaws for the Management and Use of Cabmen's Shelters	2nd June, 1904
Isolation Hospital Rules and Regulations	8th Feb., 1905
Byelaws with respect to Omnibuses ...	20th Feb., 1905
Byelaws with respect to Common Lodging Houses	20th Feb., 1905
Byelaws with respect to Sanitary Con- veniences	22nd Sept., 1905
Regulations as to connections with Sewers	11th July, 1906
Byelaws and Regulations with respect to the Free Library and Museum ...	8th May, 1907
Rules with respect to Allotments under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1908	17th April, 1909
Byelaws with reference to the Parades, Foreshores, Sands and Wastes ...	7th May, 1909
Regulations with respect to Motor Cabs	8th March, 1911
Byelaws with respect to Hackney Carriages	18th Jan., 1912
Regulations as to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops	14th August, 1912
Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, and with respect to the Drainage of Existing Buildings ...	16th Oct., 1912
Byelaws with reference to Shelters erected on the Parades, Foreshores, Sands or Wastes, etc.	24th Feb., 1913
Regulations as to Street Traffic ...	14th August, 1915
Byelaws with respect to Registries for Female Domestic Servants	12th July, 1916
Byelaws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar Structures used for Human Habitation	12th July, 1916
Byelaws with respect to the Management and Charges for the use of the Slaughterhouses provided by the Council	7th July, 1916

	Date of Approval.
Additional Byelaws with respect to Buildings	21st July, 1920
Scale of Charges for the supply of Water for other than Domestic Purposes ...	13th Oct., 1920
Byelaws with respect to the Management and Charges for the use of the Slaughterhouses provided by the Council	17th Jan., 1921
Byelaws with reference to the Parades, Foreshores, Sands and Wastes ...	21st March, 1921
Byelaws under the Provisions of the Advertisements Regulation Act, 1907	29th Oct., 1921
Byelaws and Regulations with respect to the Free Library and Museum ...	8th Feb., 1922
Additional Byelaws with respect to Hackney Carriages	17th June, 1924
Byelaws with reference to the Model Yacht Pond	8th June, 1925
Byelaws with respect to the Winter Gardens	29th Sept., 1925
Byelaws with reference to the Parades, Foreshores, Sands, and Wastes ...	8th April, 1926

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological examinations are made at the Public Laboratory of the County Council in the Boulevard, mostly free of charge. The work is always good and of great assistance to me as M.O.H. and to the Medical Practitioners in the District. I subjoin tabular statements of the work done for the District during 1925.

SWABS RECEIVED FROM WESTON-SUPER-MARE DOCTORS, 1925.

				Klebs-Löffler Bacilli.		
Diphtheria.				Negative.	Positive.	
January	...	...	...	13	...	5
February	...	...	...	15	...	9
March	...	...	...	14	...	2
April	...	...	...	10	...	0
May ...	...	...	...	8	...	0
June	...	...	...	9	...	0
July ...	...	...	...	31	...	8
August	...	...	...	10	...	1
September	...	...	...	30	...	4
October	...	...	...	22	...	2
November	...	...	...	11	...	1
December	...	...	...	6	...	2
Total	...	...	...	<u>179</u>	...	<u>34</u>

SWABS RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY HOSPITAL, 1925.

Diphtheria.				Presence of Klebs-Löffler Bacilli.		
				Negative	Positive	
Throat Swabs	...	...	...	78	...	45
Nose Swabs	...	...	...	76	...	39
Total				<u>154</u>	...	<u>84</u>

SPECIMENS RECEIVED FROM WESTON-SUPER-MARE DOCTORS, 1925.

Sputum for Tubercle Bacilli.

				Negative.	Positive.	
January	...	...	...	5	...	1
February	...	...	...	5	...	0
March	...	...	...	6	...	0
April	...	...	...	5	...	2
May	...	...	...	9	...	1
June	...	...	...	6	...	2
July ...	...	...	...	3	...	2
August	...	...	...	4	...	1
September	...	...	...	3	...	1
October	...	...	...	1	...	1
November	...	...	...	3	...	0
December	...	...	...	4	...	2
Total	...	...	...	<u>54</u>	...	<u>13</u>

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of Infectious Diseases Hospital—JOHN WALLACE,*† O.B.E., M.B., C.M., B.Sc. (Pub. Health).

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, Building Inspector—H. W. BLADON,† Member Sanitary Inspectors' Association, Robertson Prizeman Meat and Food Inspection, Robertson Prizeman Practical Sanitation, Founder's Prizeman in Hygiene, Birmingham and Midland Institution.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—CHARLES URCH, Sanitary Institute's Inspector of Nuisances Certificate.

Chief Health Visitor (County Council Health Visitor half-time)—Miss DORIS E. DALLAWAY,*† three years general training Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, Sanitary Institute Inspector of Nuisances Certificate, Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

Assistant Health Visitor—Miss ANNIE E. ROSSITER,† Certificate of Central Midwives Board, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Meteorologist—W. H. ALLEN.

Matron Isolation Hospital—Miss A. MANEY.

*Part-time Officer. †Salary contribution by Exchequer grants.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. A "constant" supply is derived from the Banwell Spring. It is of exceptionally fine quality for a water in a limestone region and of high bacteriological purity.* It reaches the Water-works at the East side of the town by gravitation and from there is pumped by a duplicate set of Diesel engines to two reservoirs, the capacity of which has been greatly increased, and to a water tower on Worlebury Hill (450 feet), which is capable of supplying the highest buildings in the District.

*The most recent analysis confirms this.

Since the Banwell water was introduced, about Whitsuntide, 1924, the spring has yielded an ample sufficiency for all the requirements of the area supplied.

Rivers and Streams. The only streams are those called rhynes, by means of which the land drainage is effected in this part of the country. These rhynes are numerous in the landward part of the district. They are subject to considerable pollution from manured lands and pig and cattle sheds, and it is doubtful how far this can be avoided. Flooding has been a cause of complaint in some parts of the district, but this has been considerably relieved by the widening of culverts, clearing the rhynes, etc., by arrangements between the Local Authority and the Commissioners of Sewers.

Drainage and Sewerage. The water carriage system has been carried out over almost the whole district, but in Milton a few cesspools still exist.

A considerable area is drained on the separate system.

Closet Accommodation. Water closets are universal throughout Weston, but in Milton 4 closets on the conservancy system are still in use where the sewers have not been constructed owing to the very sparse population.

Scavenging. Movable ashbins with proper covers have long been in general use except in the less well-to-do parts of the district, but steady progress is being made with the substitution of approved ashbins for the uncovered bucket, between 600 and 700 having been provided since 1920.

Gas is so universally in use both for heating and cooking that an unusually small proportion of ashes is found in the house refuse, which is collected at short intervals in covered dust-wagons and treated at the pulverising plant station. Unfortunately there is but little demand for the pulverised product as manure, and arrangements have been made to dump it in a neighbouring worked-out clay-pit.

Sanitary Particulars will be found at pp. 54.

nspection of the Area.

Smoke Abatement. A few complaints of nuisance arising from smoke have been investigated and little difficulty has been found in getting the nuisance abated.

No local readings of atmospheric impurity have been taken, but factory chimneys are few in number and, as stated above, gas for domestic use has taken the place of coal to such an extent that it is often difficult to see smoke from which to judge where the wind is. Smoke pollution of the air in Weston-super-Mare is really very slight.

Premises and Occupations Particulars as to Common Lodging Houses will be found on p. 54, as to Factories and Work-shops on pp. 46, 47 and 55, and as to Offensive Trades on p. 54. The ventilation and sanitary conditions of Theatres and Cinemas are inspected under the instructions of the Minister of Health 25th August, 1920.

Schools. The Public Elementary and Secondary Schools are under the County Council Authority. The sanitary condition and the water supply is satisfactory.

Cases of infectious disease and contacts are dealt with on the lines laid down in the *Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School*, 1925.

On two occasions during the year a school was closed by the Chief School Medical Officer on account of the prevalence of measles, causing a greatly diminished attendance and disorganisation of the work—the Milton Council Infants' School in March and the Christ Church Infants' School in May and June.

Housing.

I.—GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

1. The Minister of Health suggests that under this heading the Medical Officer should make use of the Census returns as far as possible. I have spent a good deal of time in trying to utilise the figures given in the various tables, but I am afraid without the success I had hoped for, owing to the difficulty of applying them to a town so largely given over to the letting of apartments all the year round, but more particularly during the holiday seasons. There are, however, figures which are of

general interest from which useful inferences may be drawn.

First I must give the Registrar-General's definitions of—

- A. PRIVATE FAMILY.—“ Any person or group of persons included in a separate return as being in separate occupation of any premises or part of premises is treated as a separate family for Census purposes, lodgers being so treated only when returned as boarding separately and not otherwise ; ”
- B. STRUCTURALLY SEPARATE DWELLINGS.—“ A structurally separate dwelling has been defined for the Census as any room or set of rooms, intended or used for habitation, having separate access either to the street or to a common landing or staircase. Thus each flat in a block of flats is a separate unit ; a private house which has not been structurally subdivided is similarly a single unit whether occupied by one family or by several families ; ”
- C. ROOMS.—“ For the purpose of the Census the rooms enumerated are the usual living rooms, including bedrooms and kitchens, but excluding sculleries, landings, lobbies, closets, bathrooms, or any warehouse, office, or shop rooms ; ”

and these make the figures which follow intelligible.

The following is a short analysis of the total private families in Weston-super-Mare in 1921 :—

	No.
Families living in single occupation of separate dwellings 	4,420
Families living 2 in a dwelling 	513
Families housed in dwellings containing 3 or more families each 	172

The average size of a “ family ” in Weston-super-Mare has increased from 4·29 persons in 1911 to 4·44 persons in 1921—an increase of 3·5 per cent.

There was an increase of 656 in the total number of separate dwellings in 1921 as compared with 1911 and only 155 were vacant as compared with 433, making 934 more dwellings in occupation than in 1911.

But the increase in 1921 in the number of private families over 1911 was 1,134.

Yet on the basis of the England and Wales standard of 1911 there was a surplus of rooms amounting to no less than 4,989 in Weston-super-Mare.

Weston-super-Mare showed an average housing for all private families of 1·30 rooms for each person.

2. (a) EXTENT OF SHORTAGE OF HOUSES.

This has been and continues to be considerable, and building, though proceeding continuously and rapidly, fails to meet the demand both from those already resident in the town and from the constant influx of new would-be residents.

Considering first the question of those already residing in the town, there are some interesting figures which I have extracted from the Census returns showing the percentages of families living in 1, 2, and 3 rooms and in dwellings containing 9 and 10 rooms compared with 1911 :—

Families living in				% in 1911.	% in 1921.	Being an Increase + Decrease —
1	Room ...	...	...	1·2	3·0	+
2	„ ...	...	...	4·9	8·8	+
3	„ ...	...	...	4·9	8·8	+
9	„ ...	...	...	17·4	14·5	—
10	„ ...	...	...	12·6	6·5	—

As to OVERCROWDING, the Registrar-General says that :—

“ The ratio of more than two persons per room was selected in the Census Reports for 1911 and earlier years as an approximate comparative index figure for the purpose of measuring the prevalence and distribution of overcrowding conditions. Since, however, that ratio has been commented upon as though it had been propounded as an absolute standard or a definition of overcrowding, it may be well to observe that its use in the Census statistics implies no judgment whatever as to what in fact constitutes overcrowding.”

With the proviso contained in that paragraph kept before one, the detailed figures relating to the above-mentioned

families living in 1, 2, and 3 rooms in 1921 are instructive :—

In 1 room 180 families, containing 294 persons

13 families, being 3 in family

9 families, being 4 in family

1 family, being 5 in family

In 2 rooms 530 families, containing 1,398 persons

34 families, being 5 in family

8 families, being 6 in family

5 families, being 7 in family

In 3 rooms 533 families, containing 1,831 persons

14 families, being 7 in family

11 families, being 8 in family

1 family, being 9 in family

In all there were 1,111 persons living MORE THAN TWO in a room in 1921, as compared with 255 persons in 1911.

These figures would appear to point to a considerable amount of overcrowding, but in considering them it must be remembered that the Census returns are silent as to the type of accommodation and the size of the rooms, as well as the ages and sex of the occupants.

Cases of overcrowding are frequently reported to the Department; in a few instances these have been glaring, usually due to sub-letting, and steps to remedy the conditions have been at once taken with success, but as a rule it has been found impossible to confirm the report on the grounds of insufficiency of cubic space. Often the cause of complaint is quarrels between tenant or sub-tenant and discomfort rather than over-crowding is the trouble. The chief difficulty has lain in the proper separation of the sexes or in too many occupying one bedroom or one bed; for example, in a case brought before me recently a family of ten live in a house containing 1 living room, 1 kitchen, and 2 bedrooms, and at night are disposed as follows :—

F.	about 14	years	own	bed	} one bedroom
F.	„	12	„	} one bed	
M.	„	10	„		
M.	„	7	„		
F.	„	4	„		

Floor area 106 sq. ft.
Cubic space 954 cub. ft.

Father	} one bed	} One bedroom
Mother		
Baby 8 weeks old		
M., 3 years old in cot ...		
M., 16 years old, couch in living room		1,125 cubic feet.

The cubic space of the house (cubic feet 4,167) is sufficient, but the sleeping arrangements are unsatisfactory.

On the other hand this case was reported to me by the Sanitary Inspector in 1922 :—

Bedrooms.	Cubic Space.	Occupants.	
Floor Space.	Cubic feet.	No.	Sex and Age.
9' 3" × 7' 6"	586	1	Male adult
6' 9" × 7'	401	3	Male adult and 2 boys aged 12 and 10 years
9' 6" × 13' 6"	1,037	6	Female adult 3 girls aged 12, 7, and 7 years 2 boys aged 18 months and 2 months
10' × 12'	1,020	7	Male adult, Female adult 5 boys aged 10, 8, 5, 4, and 2 years

As there were 4 families in the house there was both acute discomfort and over-crowding. A re-arrangement of rooms was impossible and one family had to go.

How to remedy the conditions described is a social problem of great difficulty and complexity, as shortage of houses is not alone, even if mainly, at the bottom of the trouble. But so far as they possibly can the Council are providing new houses. Their record is shown by the following table :—

Number of houses built by the Local Authority under the Addison Act of 1919 whereby the liability of the Local Authority is limited to a penny rate	118
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Under the Chamberlain Act of 1923, Subsidy £6 per house per year for 20 years	...	...	...	2
Under the Wheatley Act of 1924, Subsidy £9 per house per year for 40 years	...	...	...	82
In course of erection or authorised but not yet started, under the Addison Act	...	...	...	60
Number of additional houses the Local Authority has applied for or proposes to apply for to the Ministry of Health for authorisation before 1st October, 1926	...	...	...	96
Total				358

These houses are let at rents as under :—

Parlour type, 1 sitting room, 1 living room (<i>i.e.</i> kitchen, with cooking range), 3 bedrooms, scullery, larder, bath and coal house, per week	...	...	...	...	...	10/- to 12/6
Non-parlour type, as above, minus sitting room, per week	...	...	...	...	...	8/6 to 9/6

The houses are allotted to applicants by a special committee of the Council as far as possible according to urgent need judged by present accommodation, ex-soldiers getting a preference, character and rent-paying ability are also considered.

Over 800 applications for houses have been received, a number not by any means surprising when the excellent situation and the general lay-out of the sites, the appearance of the houses, and the accommodation, with modern conveniences in heating, lighting, and sanitation at the low rents quoted above are considered.

For various reasons many applications had to be turned down, but at least 250 applicants are still on the list.

Arrears of rent are comparatively small.

A considerable number of houses have been built during the year by private enterprise. None of these are suitable for working-class dwellings. The master builder, for financial reasons, must generally build for sale, not to let, and most

of the houses are sold long before completion, so great is the demand, whether for bungalows or for two-storied houses, owing to the constant immigration of new residents.

3.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (1) (a) The general standard of housing in the area is high.
 - (b) No house in the area was found to be unfit for human habitation in 1925.
 - (c) Defects, sometimes serious, more frequently of small importance, due sometimes to lack of attention by owners, sometimes to acts of waste or neglect by tenants, have been numerous.
 - (2) The action taken in regard to these defects will be found detailed on p. 35.
 - (3) Difficulties are encountered in a few cases in getting defects remedied, but these are generally surmounted by diplomatic pressure. In one or two cases where a Closing Order is desirable, the difficulty of finding other suitable accommodation for the tenant has constrained me to delay taking action.
- 4.—No unhealthy areas exist in Weston-super-Mare.
- 5.—A list of the Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, and sheds, etc., will be found on pp. 21 to 24.

The following table is in accordance with Article V. of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

(a) Total (converted flats not included)	...	107
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Act :—		
(1) By the Local Authority.	...	56
(2) By other bodies or persons.	...	Nil

1.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

INSPECTION.

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 301

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	26
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	141
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.				
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	141
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.				
<i>A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.</i>				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	7
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners				0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...			0
<i>B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>				
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	306
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	290
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners				0

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit...	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

In connection with the Milk Supply and with Meat and Other Foods, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report, p. 53.

No cases of FOOD POISONING occurred in the area in 1925.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

During the last five years there has been no epidemic of notifiable disease in the District ; only the expected variations of the common zymotics have occurred from year to year. One case of ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA was notified in 1922, 8 cases in 1924 (3 deaths), and 4 cases in 1925 (1 death). As the disease is better recognised than it was, the proportion of fatal cases is likely to be less heavy, though there appears to be as yet no very hopeful line of treatment.

So far as I know, neither the Dick test in SCARLET FEVER nor the Schick test in DIPHTHERIA are in use in the Area,

and at present I see no need to advise the adoption of these tests, nor of the recently developed artificial methods of immunisation against these diseases.

It is doubtful whether the serum treatment of SCARLET FEVER has been developed sufficiently to warrant my recommending its use.

On the other hand, the use of DIPHTHERIA anti-toxin is now practised in all cases seen in the early stages of the disease, and is supplied free of charge by the Council to those cases which cannot afford the expense.

In all cases of infectious disease every possible effort is made to trace CONTACTS and where necessary to isolate them. The medical men take swabs in a large percentage of cases of sore-throat of which the cause is not quite obvious, with the result that very few cases of Diphtheria are missed, and practically all contacts are swabbed, and where positive, isolated and treated. There can be no doubt that in this way the incidence of Diphtheria has of recent years been definitely reduced in Weston-super-Mare and epidemics prevented. Where loss of wages is incurred, the Council, under its Local Act of 1914, has power to pay compensation, and this has on occasion been done.

No case of SMALL-POX has been notified in the District, but in view of the peculiarities of the present epidemic and the risk of the introduction of the disease by visitor or excursionist, CHICKEN-POX has been made notifiable. In a number of doubtful cases I have been asked to assist in the diagnosis; fortunately all the cases have proved to be instances of the minor illness.

The percentage of UNVACCINATED CHILDREN continues to be very high in Weston-super-Mare. I have repeatedly but unavailingly called attention to the dangers of the situation should an outbreak of Small-pox occur.

I have had no request for either primary or re-vaccinations under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases such as MUMPS, WHOOPING-COUGH, and MEASLES have occurred with their usual regularity and of the usual types. The outbreaks call for no special comment. The Health Department keeps itself fully informed regarding the cases among the poorer classes and gets much assistance (beyond the usual school notices) from the Head Teachers in the various schools, and also from the School Attendance Officer, Mr. Treasure.

VERMINOUS PERSONS, PREMISES, and BELONGINGS when reported or discovered receive necessary advice and assistance as to cleansing.

Cases of SCABIES and Contacts are treated by bathing, etc., at the Statutory Hospital and their clothes and bedding disinfected, provided that I am satisfied that the conditions of the family and home are such that the treatment will be effective and re-infection unlikely.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases in each Locality.			Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.	1 East.	2 West.	3 South.	
Diphtheria ...	24	-	2	11	5	5	1	-	15	2	7	23
Scarlet Fever ...	20	-	5	10	3	2	-	-	5	5	10	15
Erysipelas ...	6	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	1	-	5	Nil
Pneumonia ...	20	1	-	2	2	5	5	5	7	3	10	"
Chicken-pox ...	49	1	12	32	4	-	-	-	9	18	22	"
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	36	-	1	3	9	16	5	2	11	13	12	"
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	8	-	1	5	-	2	-	-	3	1	4	"
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	1
Epidemic Encephalitis ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	Nil
Para-typhoid ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Typhoid Fever ...	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Totals ...	170	2	21	67	25	33	12	10	54	43	73	42

Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis, 1925.

AGE Periods.	CASES Notified 1925.				DEATHS occurring among Cases Notified in 1925.				TOTAL DEATHS from Tuberculosis in 1925.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Time of Notification.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	—	—
25	4	5	1	1	—	1	—	1	1	5	—	1
35	4	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
45	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	20	16	3	5	2	3	—	1	7	11	—	1

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis, 1925.

Form of Disease.	Notifi- cation Form.	Sex.	AGES.								
			At All Ages.	under 1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 and over
Pulmonary	A. {	Male - Female	20 16	0 0	0 1	2 1	5 4	4 5	4 3	3 1	2 1
Non- Pulmonary	A. {	Male - Female	3 5	0 0	1 0	1 4	0 0	1 1	0 0	0 0	0 0
Total	-	Male - Female	23 21	0 0	1 1	3 5	5 4	5 6	4 3	3 1	2 1
Grand Total	-	-	44	0	2	8	9	11	7	4	3

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action has been required under these Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No case has occurred in which action under the section referred to has been required.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

1. The MIDWIVES working in the district are under the authority of the County Council.

2. The HEALTH VISITORS give a large part of their time to attending to the health of expectant and nursing mothers and children under 5 years of age. There are 2 MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE CENTRES and one ANTE-NATAL CLINIC, but neither a Maternity Home nor other Institution specially devoted to the reception of expectant and nursing mothers or to young children as in-patients. In the meantime such cases as require medical or surgical attention are admitted to the Voluntary General Hospital and special ORTHOPÆDIC CASES can be sent to the Orthopædic Hospital at Bath, where the County Council of Somerset have a certain number of beds. The County Council has also arranged for an ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC in Weston-super-Mare (visited once a month by Dr. Forrester Brown, the House Surgeon to the Orthopædic Hospital) at which, by an arrangement which the Urban District Council has entered into, suitable cases approved by me are treated *pro rata* with the cost of the clinic.

An INFANT WELFARE VOLUNTARY COMMITTEE has for many years run a Centre at the Schoolrooms of the Congregational Church (kindly lent by the Rev. J. Holden and the Officers of the Congregation) in Weston-super-Mare, and a second Centre, opened in June, 1920, for the Milton District at the Ashcombe Park Mission Room (kindly lent by Mr. Barstow).

The Committee works in co-operation with the Urban District Council, who supply the Nurse (one of the Health Visitors) who attends the Centres. Dr. Rowland Wilde and

Dr. Petty are the Medical Officers for the Weston-super-Mare and Milton Centres respectively.

An ANTE-NATAL CLINIC is now open.

Miss Battiscombe, the Hon. Secretary, writes me :—

“ Warm thanks are due to Dr. Wilde, Dr. Petty, and Dr. Mary Somers for their invaluable services at the Centres, and to Dr. Philip Martin for acting as Hon. Consultant.

“ There have been two developments of the work during 1925. In October an Ante-Natal Clinic was opened at the Weston Centre. Dr. Mary Somers was appointed as the Hon. Medical Officer, and (by the help and co-operation of the Local District Nursing Association) she is assisted by one of the District Nurses.

“ The second development is the institution of short talks every week in the Weston Centre, the arrangement and management of which have been undertaken by Mrs. F. W. Bere and Mrs. Thomas. Very interesting talks have been given to the mothers by Mrs. Bere, Mrs. Porcher, Mrs. Snelgrove, Mrs. Price, Miss Newbery, and Miss B. Davis, and the thanks of the Committee are due to these ladies for their help.”

A Needlework Room and a Thrift Club are also run by the Committee, to whom, with their Hon. Secretary, Miss Battiscombe ; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Thomas ; and many helpers the Urban District Council and myself are much indebted for their excellent work.

The following statistics are for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1926 :—

	Weston Centre.	Milton Centre.
(a) Total number of individual mothers who attended during the year ...	213	50
Number of those who attended ante- natal sessions during the year (six months only)	10	nil
Total number of individual children who attended during the year ...	272	66
(b) Total number of { expectant mothers	10	nil
attendances of { children	2,295	314

	Weston Centre.	Milton Centre.
(c) Average attendance per session of		
{ expectant mothers	2	nil
{ children	48	13
(d) Number of first visits paid by salaried workers to homes of—		
(1) Expectant mothers	17	1
(2) Children	101	25
(e) Total number of home visits paid by salaried workers to—		
(1) Expectant mothers	34	2
(2) Children	1,009	195
(f) Total number of sessions held—		
(1) With Medical Officer	48	24
(2) Other sessions	nil	nil

The NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS (Extension) Act, 1915, is carried out with regularity, both by doctors and midwives, and very little disparity is found between the list of births supplied to me by the Registrar of Births and Deaths and the actual notifications received.

All suitable cases are visited by the Health Visitors, revisits are made as is found necessary, and the figures for 1925 are :—

First visits to infants under 1 year	... ..	263
Re-visits to infants under 1 year	... ..	1,391
Re-visits to infants from 1 to 5 years	... ..	1,912

Infant mortality continues to be far below the average (74 per 1,000 births) for towns of similar size, viz. :—for 1925, 41·66 per 1,000 births.

The figures for Weston-super-Mare since 1891 are interesting :—

Average 1891-1900	... ..	130·9 per 1,000 births
„ 1901-1910	... ..	94·6 „
„ 1911-1920	... ..	79·3 „
„ 1925	... ..	41·6 „
Average last 10 years 1916-1925	... ..	54·8 „

Milk Grants. In accordance with the Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders of the Ministry of Health, grants of milk have been continued during the year, and 88 different families have been in receipt of such assistance, the grants amounting to :—

18,763 pints of milk

12½ packets of dried milk,

at a cost of £148 13s. 3d.

The Health Visitors have paid 441 visits during the year in connection with these grants and care is taken to prevent abuse and to see that the milk is taken by the person, whether child or expectant mother, for whom it is intended, but it is difficult to ensure this, and still more difficult to prevent the family stopping the usual order for milk when a grant is made.

One family was in continuous receipt of milk from 1920 to the end of 1925 ; 3 families have had it since 1921 and 2 since 1922.

No case of puerperal sepsis occurred in Weston-super-Mare during 1925, nor was there any death from other accident or disease of pregnancy or parturition.

All cases of still-birth and infant death are investigated, and such action taken as the circumstances warrant.

Illegitimate births are specially noted and the destination of the children inquired into with the view of seeing that proper provision is made for them.

Boarded-out children and their homes in Axbridge Union are subject to inspection by Mr. Day, Sanitary Inspector for the Axbridge Rural District.

Inspector Ford of the R.S.P.C.C. gives me most valuable assistance in cases that come within the provisions of the " Children's Charter."

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the
Urban District of Weston-super-Mare,**

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION

OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

(including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors
of Nuisances).

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	35	—	—
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries and Bakehouses)	151	1	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	43	—	—
Total ...	229	1	—

2.—DEFECTS

FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts* :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances... ..	12	12	—	—
Sanitary accommodation. { insufficient... ..	—	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective... ..	4	4	—	—
{ not separate for sexes... ..	1	1	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	19	19	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK. (1)	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107. Lists received from Employers.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists. (8)
	Sending twice in the year.			Sending once in the year.			
	Lists. (2)	Outworkers.		Lists. (5)	Outworkers.		
		Con- tractors (3)	Work- men. (4)		Con- tractors (6)	Work- men. (7)	
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc. ... Cleaning and washing	16 —	Nil —	20 —	Nil —	Nil —	Nil —	16 —
Total ...	16	Nil	20	Nil	Nil	Nil	16

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Including 34 Bakehouses	132
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	132

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	—
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Work- shop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	—
Action taken in matters referred (Notified by H.M. In- by H.M. Inspector as remedi- spector)	7
able under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901) (Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector...)	
Other	—
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year	Nil

Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.

Meteorological Report

for the Year

1925.

Climatological Observations, 1925.

A NORMAL YEAR.

I append the annual Climatological Report for 1925.

The observations below are recorded at the Town Hall and Clarence Park.

The monthly reports were forwarded to the Meteorological Office during the year. Weekly reports were also supplied to the local Press, and telegrams reporting sunshine, rainfall, and any special phenomena sent daily to the Meteorological Office, which, by means of a daily Weather Report, issued the observations to the leading papers published in the principal towns of Great Britain, the cost of telegrams being defrayed by the Weston-super-Mare Town Advertising and Entertainments Association, Ltd.

The daily rainfall and the total rainfall for the year were also sent to the British Rainfall Organization, Air Ministry, London, S.W.

The highest observed reading of the barometer during the year was $30^{\circ}\cdot650$ on the 19th January, at 9 a.m., whilst the lowest was $28^{\circ}\cdot650$, on the 20th December, at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson screen during the year was $81^{\circ}\cdot0$, on the 10th June. The lowest was $25^{\circ}\cdot0$, on the 13th March.

The highest reading of the blackened bulb barometer in vacuo was $133^{\circ}\cdot0$, on the 10th June.

The lowest temperature registered over short grass by a sensitive terrestrial radiation minimum thermometer was $17^{\circ}\cdot0$, on the 13th March.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was 10th June, and the value for that day was $69^{\circ}\cdot0$. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 4th January, when $31^{\circ}\cdot0$ was registered.

The greatest range of temperature in the screen upon any one day was $27^{\circ}\cdot 0$, occurring on the 13th September. The least range was $2^{\circ}\cdot 0$, on the 21st January.

The average relative humidity of the air, taken at 9 a.m., was 82 per cent., and complete saturation occurred on two occasions.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine, per Campbell-Stokes recorder, upon any one day, was 14·3 hours, on the 4th June. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1,570·6, as compared with 1,364·9 hours in 1924. This gives an increase of 205·7 hours of bright sunshine as compared with the previous year. The daily mean of bright sunshine was 4·30 hours.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall day"—*i.e.*, 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 1·35 inches, on the 19th October, whilst the total amount of rainfall for the year was 34·69 inches. This amount is 1·23 inches above the average for the past ten years, which is 33·86 inches, and rain fell on 161 days during the year.

June was the sunniest month, with 293·3 hours of bright sunshine, and July the warmest. December was the coldest month. August headed the months with a total of 6·40 inches of rain, February coming next with 3·73 inches.

During the year snow fell on 5 occasions, whilst hail 5, thunderstorms 11, fog 3, ground frosts 51, and gales 8 times were recorded.

The mean temperature for the year was $50^{\circ}\cdot 0$.

W. H. ALLEN,

Observer.

MONTHLY RESULTS OF CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

1925. Month.	AIR TEMPERATURES.							Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud, 9 a.m.	RADIATION.		RAIN.		SUN. Number of Hours.	Barometer 9 a.m.
	MEANS.				EXTREMES.		Min. on Grass.			Max. in Sun. black bulb in vacuo.	Amount. Inches.	Number of wet days.			
	9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range.	Mean.	Min.							Max.		
January ...	43.6	40.1	48.5	8.4	44.3	33.0	55.0	87	7.2	36.2	66.0	2.48	17	32.6	30.200
February ...	43.4	39.4	49.1	9.7	44.3	32.0	54.0	84	6	34.2	83.0	3.73	18	78.9	29.650
March ...	42.7	37.6	48.4	10.8	43.0	25.0	54.0	80	6.6	33.0	85.0	0.26	6	108.3	30.200
April ...	47.2	40.6	53.7	13.1	47.1	34.0	61.0	78	6.5	36.8	104.0	2.09	13	176.1	29.860
May ...	52.8	47.6	60.0	12.4	53.8	40.0	73.0	82	6.2	44.3	109.0	3.43	18	157.1	29.780
June ...	61.7	52.1	70.4	18.3	61.3	47.0	81.0	72	4	41.6	122.0	0.02	1	293.3	30.170
July ...	62.5	56.5	69.5	13.0	63.0	52.0	78.0	78	6	52.2	114.0	3.49	16	186.7	29.950
August ...	61.6	56.0	68.3	12.3	62.1	48.0	77.0	82	6.3	52.7	105.0	6.40	16	155.9	29.990
September ...	54.9	49.2	62.0	12.8	55.6	36.0	66.0	79	6	45.9	100.7	3.70	15	140.3	30.000
October ...	53.6	47.3	59.5	12.2	53.4	34.0	68.0	88	6.5	43.0	105.0	3.40	14	98.9	29.860
November...	41.3	37.0	46.4	9.4	41.7	26.0	62.0	86	6	31.8	84.4	2.25	9	89.3	29.940
December	39.5	36.6	43.8	47.2	40.2	24.0	56.0	89	6.7	33.0	71.0	3.44	18	53.2	29.760
Means and Totals	50.4	45.0	56.6	11.6	50.8	35.9	65.4	82	6.2	40.4	95.8	34.69	161	1570.6	29.947

Urban District of Weston-super-Mare.

Annual Report

of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year

1925.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to submit my sixth Annual Report upon the work of my Department during the year 1925.

The tabular records appended indicate the scope of the work done. It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any case during the year.

The work carried out by local builders and contractors continues to be of a very good standard. A considerable amount of annoyance and expense has been caused in several instances however by the use of defective cement in drainage work. It has again been necessary to condemn several newly laid drains owing to defects being exposed on the application of the final test.

Offensive Trades. Several formal and informal applications have been made to establish the trade of a fish frier. For various reasons these applications have not been agreed to.

The following scheduled offensive trades at present operate in the town :—Four fish friers, 3 rag and bone dealers, 1 tripe boiler.

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, etc. As your Inspector acting under the Ministry of Health Circular Letter of August 25th, 1920, I have made inspections of the cinemas and theatres in the town with a view to seeing that proper ventilation, sanitary conditions, etc., are maintained.

Common Lodging Houses. There are three registered houses in the town, all of which are situated in Union Street. These have been regularly inspected. No contraventions have been noted and on the whole the houses are fairly well kept. It was necessary to disinfect the bedding and fumigate the rooms of one house for vermin.

Factories and Workshops. There are 132 workshops on the Register, including 34 bakehouses and factory bakehouses. Twice yearly lime-washing of bakehouses has in every instance been carried out in compliance with the Act ; 21 out-workers' premises have been visited. A statement of the work done under this heading is appended to the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Housing Inspection. Owing to pressure of work it has not, this year, been possible to make many recorded inspections under the "Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations," but a fair amount of work was done as a result of informal work under the Public Health Acts. It was found necessary to send formal notices to the owner with regard to one property which was in such a condition as to be "not reasonably fit." The notices were eventually complied with.

A larger number of houses has been erected during the past twelve months than in any one year since the close of the war. Practically all the houses erected have been built for sale, and a fairly large proportion of them have been bought and occupied by new comers to the town. Although an increased number of small houses have been put up, this does not help those desiring houses and who cannot afford to pay an economic rent.

The conditions with regard to overcrowding are still giving a considerable amount of trouble and, as the Council are well aware, are the cause of much discomfort among a proportion of the labouring population. The Housing Schemes which you now have in hand should alleviate these conditions to a considerable extent.

Rent Restrictions Acts. No formal applications under the acts were received.

SUMMARY OF VISITS

BY SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STAFF (not Health Visitors).

HOUSING.—(Inspection of District) Regulations :—

Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	...	26
Revisits paid	...	...	...	60
Houses with no defects	...	...	...	5
Houses dealt with under P.H.A.	...	...	...	306
Houses with work outstanding	...	...	...	16
Houses dealt with under H. & T.P.A.	...	...	...	0

NUMBER OF VISITS PAID :—

Under Petroleum Inspections Act	...	...	...	85
Infectious diseases, in connection with	...	...	...	858
Nuisances or complaints	...	...	...	482
Work ordered	...	...	...	445
Work in progress, new buildings (plan deposited)	...	...	...	2,718
Work in progress, old buildings (plan not deposited)	...	...	...	316
Neglectful tenants visited	...	...	...	29

Drainage Tests Visits—

Smoke tests at existing buildings	...	...	...	100
Smoke tests at new buildings (plan deposited)	...	...	...	202
Water tests at new buildings	„	„	...	1,051
Water tests at existing buildings	...	...	...	218
Inspection of concrete in connection with new drains	...	...	...	1,022
Offensive trades	...	...	...	54
Ice cream shops and vendors	...	...	...	51
Owners and agents interviewed	...	...	...	466
Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspections	...	...	...	93
Samples of Grade "A" Milk	...	...	...	7
Common lodging houses	...	...	...	12
Food and provision premises	...	...	...	517
Butchers' shops and Public Abattoirs	...	...	...	440
Stable and manure receptacle inspections	...	...	...	263
Outworkers' premises inspected	...	...	...	21

Schools, public buildings, and institutions inspected...	26
Public sanitary conveniences inspected	72
Tents, vans, and sheds	43
Sewers water tested	109
Supplementary visits in connection with building inspection	235
Visits in connection with sanitary dustbins ...	241

WORK DONE.

Complaints investigated	302
Complaints referred to Surveyor	27
Written Notices and letters sent with regard to abatement of nuisances, etc.	183
Verbal notices given	53
Written Notices with respect to provision of dustbins ...	56
Sanitary dustbins provided	180
Number of houses (old) provided with new drains (properly ventilated and made smoke and water tight)	23
Drains cleared, cleansed, or repaired	46
Soil-pipes altered or repaired and properly ventilated ...	16
New w.c. pedestals fixed	33
Water closets cleansed and repaired	7
Water closets without sufficient external ventilation and light improved, abolished, or reconstructed ...	5
New flushing cisterns supplied to w.c.'s	27
Premises supplied with additional w.c.'s	19
Premises supplied with additional drains	21
Sanitary sinks fixed with properly trapped waste-pipes	12
Bath, sink, and lavatory waste-pipes trapped and repaired	8
Rain-water down-pipes disconnected from drains ...	1
Rain-water tank overflows disconnected or examined	0
Urinals reconstructed or repaired and flushing tanks provided	1
Yards repaved or repaired	3

Repairs to houses	...	...	...	...	59
Earth banks removed from house walls	...	...			0
Rain-water spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	3
New baths fixed in existing buildings	...	...	...		19
New baths fixed in flats	...	...	...	...	4
New lavatory basins fixed in existing buildings	...				19
New lavatory basins fixed in flats	...	...	...		5
New sanitary sinks fixed in existing buildings	...	...			5
New sanitary sinks fixed in flats	...	...	...		8
Rooms fumigated and disinfected after scarlet fever	...				27
Rooms fumigated and disinfected after diphtheria	...				23
Rooms fumigated and disinfected after enteric	...				1
Rooms fumigated and disinfected after tuberculosis	...				65
Rooms fumigated and disinfected after other diseases	...				109
Number of premises from which infectious articles removed for disinfection	...	...	...		167
Number of articles destroyed	...	...	...	...	123
Total number of articles disinfected for private houses	...	...	...	...	3,220
School exclusion and clearance notices <i>re</i> infected houses	...				64
Number of lime brushes lent to cottagers	...	...			115
Rooms and premises cleansed or limewashed	...	...			3
Verminous premises cleansed and purified, etc.	...				30
Tenants required to cleanse premises	...	...	...		3
Cases of alleged overcrowding dealt with	...	...			13
Stagnant water removed and ditches and private lanes cleansed	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances arising from tents, vans, and sheds	...	...			20
Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed	...				25
Number of new houses certified to Surveyor <i>re</i> drainage and sanitary fittings	...	...	...	...	107
Number of new houses certified to Surveyor as being substantially in accordance with plans	...	...			107
Number of converted flats certified to Surveyor as being substantially in accordance with plans	...				26

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection. No change has been made in the methods of disinfection. The bedding is steam disinfected in your Thresh steam jacketed disinfector and infected rooms disinfected with formaldehyde.

Infectious disease histories are traced by the Health Visitors or myself under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops. With the educational work undertaken by the officials and lecturers of Local and County Authorities, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Milk Publicity Council, and the Farmers' Union, and with the inspection of producers' premises under the 1922 Act, it was to be expected that some improvement would take place as to the condition in which milk is sent in to the consuming centres. I think it can be said that there has been some improvement noticed, but at the same time there is room for a considerable advance in the methods of the production of milk.

Fewer complaints have been received either from the public and the retailers with regard to dirty milk during the year.

At the end of the year there were on the register :—

(a) Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
(b) Wholesalers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
(c) Producers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(d) Grade "A" (Tuberculin tested licence to bottle and sell)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Samples of Grade "A" tuberculin tested milk have been submitted to the County Analyst and found to be satisfactory.

Two retail purveyors bottle milk and do not sell by retail in any other form.

A few detailed improvements have been made on various premises.

Meat and Food Inspection. As your Inspector of Meat and other foods, it is pleasing to record that it has not been found necessary to make any formal seizures during the year.

The gross weight of meat condemned is rather more than last year, viz. :—170 cwts. 1 qr. 10½ lbs., as against 128 cwts. 2 qrs., 3½ lbs. last year.

The class of animals submitted for slaughter at the Public Abattoir continues to be good.

There are no private slaughter houses in the town. During the year your Council was authorised to adopt "Meat Marking." Very stringent conditions as regards facilities and qualifications of Inspectors are enforced before the Ministry of Health agree to this procedure. Very few Authorities in England have so far been authorised to adopt "Marking."

Although "Marking" is only optional on the part of the butcher, it is to be regretted that only 12 availed themselves of the privilege. The following is a list of tradesmen who up to the end of the year have requested me to mark with the official stamp :—

Mr. W. L. House, Moorland Road	...	All carcasses
Eastman's, Ltd., Regent Street and Meadow Street	... ..	„
British & Argentine Meat Co., Ltd., Meadow Street	... ..	„
Burnell Bros., Milton Road...	... ..	„
Mr. J. Bond, Clevedon Road	... ..	„
Mr. E. W. Bishop, Locking Road	... ..	„
Mr. J. H. Whitton, Moorland Road	...	Pigs only
Mr. A. J. Tabrett, Pork Butcher, Meadow Street	... ..	„
Mr. W. H. Tarr, Pork Butcher, Meadow Street	... ..	„
Hook & Co., Pork Butcher, Regent Street	...	„
Hawkins & Co., Ltd., Pork Butcher, Regent Street	... ..	„
Mr. R. H. Bown, 66 Meadow Street	...	All carcasses

A certain amount of English meat sold in the town is not killed at the Public Abattoirs. As this meat, although generally of good quality, is unaccompanied by the organs, it is exceedingly difficult for the most competent inspector to detect any but fairly obvious disease lesions.

Without prejudice to any powers which the Council may in the future exercise with regard to the enforcement of

suitable glazed windows in retail meat shops, the local butchers and others concerned have been informed that meat must not be placed beyond the confines of their shop fronts or in such a position that it can be fouled by “mud, filth, or other contaminating substance being splashed or blown thereon.”

Food preparing and handling premises other than butchers have been inspected during the year.

ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

		1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Pigs	...	1,923	2,827	3,699	3,651	4,766	4,758
Sheep	...	4,300	6,422	7,733	7,946	8,115	8,439
Calves	...	1,525	1,109	956	948	999	1,074
Beeves	...	873	746	1,031	1,233	1,223	1,263

The slaughtering fees at the Public Abattoirs are :—

Pigs	...	...	...	...	1s.
Sheep		...	...	...	6d.
Calves	...	...	...	...	1s.
Beeves	...	...	...	...	2s.

These prices are now being reconsidered with a view to alteration.

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

condemned in the Town and at the Abattoirs :—

DISEASED MEAT :—

					Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Tuberculous Cattle—3	Whole carcasses	...	...	...	17	0	21
53	Heads and tongues	...	...	...	14	1	7
52	Pairs of lungs	...	...	...	4	2	27
52	Hearts	...	...	...	2	1	11
34	Livers	...	...	...	4	2	18
17	Skirts	...	...	...	0	1	6
7	Spleens	...	...	...	0	0	14
14	Sets of guts	...	...	...	2	0	22
9	Stomachs	...	...	...	1	1	15
Total					47	1	1

				Cwts.qrs.lbs.		
Tuberculous Pigs—14 Carcases	...	...	...	15	2	16
174 Heads	...	...	...	24	1	4
113 Plucks	...	...	...	9	1	0
144 Sets of guts	...	...	...	12	3	19
37 Melts	...	...	...	0	1	9
37 Stomachs	...	...	...	0	2	23
Total				63	1	11

Total weight of tuberculous meat ... 110 2 12

DISEASED—NON-TUBERCULOUS AND UNSOUND MEAT.

Cattle.				Cwt. qrs. lbs.			Cwt.qrs.lbs.		
182 Livers	...	...	...	27	3	13			
139 Parts of livers	...	...	...	6	2	12			
3 Heads and tongues	...	...	...	0	3	10			
1 Calf and all offal	...	...	...	0	1	2			
Beef	...	...	...	1	0	27½			
							36	3	8½

Pigs.									
6½ Carcases	...	...	...	5	3	10			
5 Plucks	...	...	...	0	1	20			
5 Sets of guts	...	...	...	0	1	20			
5 Melts	...	...	...	0	0	5			
5 Stomachs	...	...	...	0	0	10			
61 Livers	...	...	...	1	2	23			
71 Pairs of lungs	...	...	...	2	0	6			
							10	2	10

Sheep.									
8 Carcases	...	...	...	3	1	14			
484 Livers	...	...	...	8	2	16			
7 Plucks	...	...	...	0	1	6			
							12	1	8

Total weight of diseased non-tuberculous and unsound meat ... 59 2 26½

					Cwts.qrs.lbs.				
Gross total of meat condemned					...	170	1	10½	
					<hr/>				
Bacon.					Cwts.qrs.lbs.				
					Cwts.qrs.lbs.				
2	Knuckles	...	...	...	0	0	4¾
	Piece middle gammon	...	...	...	0	0	4¼
	Smoked bacon	...	...	...	0	0	2
					<hr/>				
						0	0	11	
					<hr/>				
TINNED GOODS.									
	Fish (various)	...	...	...	...	16	tins
	Fruit (various)	...	...	...	...	37	tins
	Corned beef	...	...	...	...	1	tin
					<hr/>				
					Total	...	54	tins	
					<hr/>				
FRUIT.					Cwts.qrs. lbs.				
6	Baskets of cherries	...	...	...	1	0	2
20	Small barrels of apples	...	...	...	5	3	19
					<hr/>				
					Total	...	6	3	21
					<hr/>				

There are 32 butchers' shops in the town.

I have great pleasure in reporting that I continue to receive the efficient and willing co-operation of your Abattoir Superintendent, Mr. J. Stewardson.

As the result of a meeting of Somerset Medical Officers of Health and Sanitary Inspectors at Wells to meet Dr. Savage to discuss the Meat Regulations, 1924, you kindly gave the use of the Town Hall and the Public Abattoirs for the purposes of holding lectures and demonstrations on Meat and Food Inspection. Your kindness was very much appreciated by those attending and by the lecturers, Dr. Savage, Mr. T. Jones, and myself. The courses proved very successful and there was an average attendance of about 33. Your Assistant Inspector, Mr. C. E. Urch, as a result of attending the lectures and demonstrations, passed the Royal Sanitary Institute examination held at Weston-super-Mare on January 23rd, 1926.

Food and Drugs Act. I have here included a statement supplied by Police Superintendent Richardson of the work done under these Acts by the County Authority :—

	Number genuine.	Not genuine.	Penalty.
Milk	43	1	Fined £5
Condensed milk ...	3	—	
Dried milk powder	2	—	
Food and drink ...	26	—	
Apples	2	1	
			Containing 1/37 grain per lb. of arsenic. No pro- ceedings
Non-alcoholic wine	1	—	Consisted of com- mercial borax. No proceedings
Beer	2	—	
Drugs	9	—	
Bic. of soda ...	—	1	
Wines and spirits	7	—	
Total ...	95	3	

Concluding Remarks. I am obliged to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, Dr. Wallace, and other Officials for their consideration, co-operation, and help at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
H. W. BLADON,

Chairman S.W. Centre Sanitary Inspectors' Association ; Robertson Prizeman Meat and Food Inspection ; Robertson Prizeman Practical Sanitation ; Founders' Prizeman in Hygiene, Birmingham and Midland Institute.

